

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A call processing system for use in processing calls associated with a prison facility comprising:
 - a plurality of telephone terminals disposed within said prison facility;
 - a first processor-based system coupled to said plurality of telephone terminals and disposed locally with respect thereto, said first processor-based system providing a digital data network interface providing digital communication of voice signals associated with one or more of said plurality of telephone terminals with user terminals external to said prison facility; and
 - a second processor-based system coupled to said first processor-based system and disposed remotely with respect thereto, said second processor-based system providing at least one aspect of call processing functionality for controlling said digital communication.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said digital communication comprises transmission of voice over Internet protocol data packets through said digital data network interface.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein said first processor-based system provides call connection switching under control of said at least one aspect of call processing functionality provided by said second processor-based system.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein said at least one aspect of call processing functionality provided by said second processor-based system comprises a call routing determination.
5. The system of claim 3, wherein said at least one aspect of call processing functionality provided by said second processor-based system comprises a PIN verification determination.
6. The system of claim 3, wherein said at least one aspect of call processing functionality provided by said second processor-based system comprises a billing determination.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein said second processor-based system comprises a call processing platform providing remote call control with respect to said first processor-based system.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said call processing platform provides centralized call control with respect to a plurality of processor-based systems disposed at corresponding sites for which calling services are provided.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein said first processor-based system comprises a voice over Internet protocol gateway.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein said second processor-based system comprises a network edge device of said digital data network.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said network edge device provides a gateway between said digital data network and another network.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said another network comprises the public switched telephone network.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein said network edge device comprises a voice over Internet protocol gateway.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein said at least one aspect of call processing functionality provided by said second processor-based system comprises three-way call detection.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said three-way call detection is provided at an edge of said data network remote from said first processor-based system.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein said second processor-based system provides speech recognition operable with respect to at least one of said plurality of telephone terminals disposed within said prison facility and said user terminals external to said prison facility.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein said second processor-based system provides a plurality of call processing functions.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein said plurality of call processing functions comprise a call billing function, a call routing function, and a validation function.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein said plurality of call processing functions comprise call monitoring and call recording.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein said plurality of call processing functions comprise an unauthorized call activity determination function operable during communication between one of said plurality of telephone terminals and at least one said user terminals external to said prison facility.

21. A prison facility call processing system comprising:

a call processing platform coupled, via digital data links, to a plurality of prison facilities for which calling services are provided, said call processing platform being coupled to a carrier network for providing calling connections, wherein said call processing platform includes call application management functionality controlling connecting calls over said digital data links and terminating in ones of said prison facilities to said carrier network through said call processing platform; and

call processing gateways associated with ones of said plurality of prison facilities, wherein said call processing gateways operate to provide interfacing between analog user terminals and said digital data links, said call processing gateways operable under control of said call processing platform to control connection of calls over said digital data links.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein said digital data links provide voice over Internet protocol data communication between said plurality of prison facilities and said call processing platform to carry call content as digital data.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein call control functionality provided by said call processing platform comprises unauthorized call activity detection.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein said unauthorized call activity detection comprises three-way call detection.

25. The system of claim 21, further comprising call control functionality provided by a network edge device in addition to said call processing platform and said call processing gateway.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein said call control functionality provided by said call processing gateway and said call control functionality provided by said network edge device operate cooperatively to control calls.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein said cooperative operation comprises redundant detection of calling activity.

28. The system of claim 26, wherein said cooperative operation comprises detection of different calling activities.

29. The system of claim 26, wherein said cooperative operation comprises shared partial processing of calling activity detection.

30. The system of claim 21, wherein said call processing gateways provide interfacing between at least one analog telephone line interface and said digital data links.

31. The system of claim 21, wherein said call processing gateways comprise voice over Internet protocol gateways.

32. The system of claim 21, wherein said call processing gateways provide at least one local area network interface for coupling a computer workstation to said call processing platform via said digital data links.

33. The system of claim 21, wherein said call processing gateways are disposed at corresponding ones of said plurality of prison facilities and said call processing platform is disposed remotely with respect to said call processing gateways.

34. A method for providing prison facility call processing, said method comprising:
coupling a centralized call processing platform to a plurality of prison facilities via a digital data link;
coupling said centralized call processing platform to a carrier network for providing calling connections;
interfacing one or more telephone terminal within said prison facilities with said digital data link; and
invoking call application management functionality of said centralized call processing platform to control connecting calls over said digital data links and terminating with ones of said telephone terminals to said carrier network through said call processing platform.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising:
monitoring said call to detect unauthorized call activity.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein said unauthorized call activity comprises three-way calling.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein said monitoring is performed by said centralized call processing platform.

38. The method of claim 34, wherein said control connecting calls comprises:
validating an aspect of said call;
determining call routing;
determining call acceptance by a called party; and
creating call billing information.

39. The method of claim 34, wherein said call application management functionality comprises speech recognition.

40. The method of claim 34, wherein said call application management functionality comprises call recording.